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Hero of Ypres Resigns as British Captain To Go to Mexico for Uncle Sam as Private

War Honors Come Fast Enough on the Field of Battle, Says Alexander B. C. Weel, Brooklyn Man Who Won Rank in Europe by Bravery Against Germans.

By Nicola Greeley-Smith.

At 11 o'clock last Monday night Alexander B. C. Weel of Brooklyn was a captain in the Royal Highlanders of Canada, on furlough in the United States because of a critical wound received in the second battle of Ypres. At 11:30 Capt. Weel of the "Black Watch," as his regiment was more familiarly known, had become plain Mr. Weel of Brooklyn. At midnight he had been transformed into Private Weel of Battery C, Second Field Artillery, now encamped at Van Cortlandt Park. The British officer had cabled his resignation and enlisted in the service of his native land.

The tall, well-built, brown-eyed young man whom I saw yesterday in Van Cortlandt Park had been mentioned in despatches for bravery in the hard-fought battle which many unfortunates still insist on pronouncing to rhyme with snipers (PLEASE don't do it—It is Ypres (Ee-pray), and Private, late Captain, Weel says to call it "Wipers" is worse than anything that happened in that four days' fight. Young Weel won his captaincy by bravery in the field, as he enlisted in England as a private.

"Friends told me I ought to apply for a commission here, but what was the use?" he asked me. "That would have meant delay, and a fellow gets promotion on the field fast enough if he earns it, though it takes a million and three years in time of peace. I resigned by cable Monday night. You see, I'm an American, and I felt my own country has the first call on my services. And, besides, I have a little personal grudge to settle with Johnny Mex. I was superintendent of a lumber camp near Campeche when the European war started. I was down there through all the Huerta-Carranza-Villa-Zapata mess. Our camp was attacked by the bandits. I have no particular use for Mexicans.

"JOHNNY MEX" CAN FIGHT HARD IN HIS OWN WAY.

"But let me tell you anybody is mistaken who thinks the Mexican can't fight. In his own way he's a bird of a feather. I'll venture to predict there won't be more than one pitched battle in this war. The rest will be just running away, but the Mexican will fight as he runs. Johnny Mex is what you might call a moving picture fighter. He can't fight unless somebody is watching him and thinking

how brave he is.

"Give him an audience and he'll be shot smiling, with a cigarette in his mouth. But put him where nobody can watch the fine performance he is giving and he crumples up.

"He's got courage just the same. There are all kinds of courage, you know. I haven't any particular admiration for the sudden spectacular deeds that win the Legion of Honor, the Military Medal, the Victoria Cross, or even the Iron Cross. When you think of the fellows who leave wives and children, and comfortable, cheerful, happy homes, and spend months in the trenches, with vermin on the outside and the most unsatisfactory sort of food inside, you know what real courage is. And courage is not being afraid. If you are not afraid, where does your courage come in? It's being afraid and conquering your fear; it's plunging right up an embankment with machine gun bullets and rifle bullets raining on you, while all the time you'd give your soul to run away.

"The first time I was under fire, 500 of the Black Watch were marching from Armentieres to Lille, about three miles.

TORTURED BY THE FEAR THAT HE'LL PROVE 'YELLOW.'

"As we came to a railroad embankment machine guns opened on us and rifle fire followed. We stood still, not knowing enough to advance or to throw ourselves on our faces. Then our men began to drop around us, such with a queer little yell. Well, after you heard that sound you were mad clean through. You lost all sensation of fear or doubt. You just wanted to get at those fellows who were killing your comrades. And automatically you found yourself going forward.

"When you realized this you were very happy. For until a man is under fire he is tortured by the fear that he may not stand up, that he'll turn out yellow, as the saying is. There's what all these young chaps out there are thinking about now."

Private, formerly Captain, Weel waved his hand toward the groups of very young men in khaki who composed Battery C. Our interview took place in the tent of Capt. Albert Hamilton through the courtesy of that young officer. Outside slim boys looking scarcely eighteen years old did sentry duty. Older men stood in groups around the heavy drawn up before the dun colored tent, the piping inquiries of curious school children.

"What are you going to kill with that gun—Mexicans?" a prospect in which the youngsters seemed to take a frank and unfeigned delight. Crowds of men and women watched the warlike preparations with untiring interest. There was something better than the movies and to be seen for nothing.

No wonder the crowd was a throng with long distance valor. And I felt that there must be something lacking in me because I couldn't thrill with them. But the boys in their new khaki were such fine, such very young fellows, and they had been soldiers such a little time that they still looked more like sons and brothers and sweethearts than like heroes-to-be. Looking at them, realizing that some woman had braved the death for every one of them, I thought how strange it is that because we were too moral to recognize a murderer as President of Mexico all these thousands of men have to go out and become murderers or the victims of murderers. I asked Private Weel what he thought about it.

"I'm in the service of the Government now," he answered, "but I wish you had put that inquiry to me last week when I was only assistant editor of Brooklyn Life. I am running a serial of my war adventures in Brooklyn Life, you know. I call it 'Fighting With the Royal Highlanders in Flanders.'"

"I came back home on leave as the result of a severe abdominal wound received on the fourth day of the battle of Ypres—the second battle, from April 21 to 25, 1915. The Germans used gas for the first time on the western front in that battle, though they had gassed the Russians before that. We were holding the extreme left of the British line and we had the Turcos to the left of us.

"Suddenly great dark clouds began rolling toward us. Before they were upon us I recognized the smell of chlorine, for I have done laboratory work. I called out 'Chlorine!' and gave my men the order to wet their handkerchiefs and put them over their faces. That saved a lot of us. 'With a gas attack you must do one of two things: retreat instantly beyond the zone, or plunge through it. We plunged through it. And we were so mad that we took four lines of German trenches. The gas made all of us



ALEXANDER B. C. WEEL
SOCIAL PRESS ASSN.

so furious that for four days 18,000 of us held the woods against 80,000 Germans.

"At the end of the battle my company had fifty-one effectives left of 1,287 men. The Turcos went to pieces under the gas. The poor black thought it was some sort of magic and, brave as lions in a bayonet charge or a hand-to-hand fight, they broke and ran.

"They ran all the way to the village of Ypres and the British cavalry had to club them back with their sabres. But they are brave fellows, brave as any when they are fighting something they understand. It was after we had plunged through the gas that I got my wound."

HUGHES CONSULTS ROOT; FAIRBANKS A CALLER

Candidate Won't Talk Politics. His Supporters Sure T. R. Will Be in Line.

Charles E. Hughes and Ethel Root had a two-hour conference this afternoon at the Hotel Astor, discussing the Democratic platform. After the conference Mr. Hughes said:

"I will not talk upon politics, save to say that I expect the hearty support of Mr. Root. I shall leave for my summer home at Bridgehampton tomorrow and hereafter will spend only two days a week in New York."

Charles W. Fairbanks, the other

half of the Hughes ticket, called on Mr. Hughes this afternoon. Another caller was Elton H. Hooker, Progressive National Treasurer. While Mr. Hughes would not comment on Col. Roosevelt or say whether or not he had any appointment with the Progressive candidate, there was some talk about the Hughes headquarters that the Colonel would back Hughes to the limit, taking the stump if necessary.

McCormick at Democratic Headquarters.

Vance McCormick, Democratic National Chairman, was in his headquarters in the Forty-second Street building today. Among his callers were Henry Morosoff, Homer E. Cummings, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee, William March, Treasurer of the National Committee, and Frederick H. Lynch. Mr. McCormick announced that the active campaign would be started in earnest next Tuesday.



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NEXT SUNDAY

How Rear Admiral Ward and His Wife Fulfilled a Dream of Their Youth.

(Interesting Illustrations.)

A New Light on What Thought Is.

By Frances Hodgson Burnett.

"THEY'RE OFF!"

A Smart Page of Drawings in Four Colors, Especially Sketched at the Races by Gordon Ross.

A Young New York Woman Whose Unique Business Is to Run Pageants.

Full Page Photograph in Four Colors, With a Brief Sketch of Her Career.

With An Adventurer Who Is Crossing the Continent Propelled in Novel Fashion by a Mule.

How a Lone Novelist "Lived" Her Plot by Spending Three Years in a Wilderness.

Do You Really Know Your New York?

A Page of Sketches by Herb Roth, From Actual Street Scenes, That Will Make You Believe You're a Stranger in Your Own City!

Where Shackleton Struggled Through South Polar Ice to Dodge Despair and Death.

A Big Drawing in Color by Biedermann, Giving a Comprehensive Idea of the Famous Journey.

In the Gravure Section:

War Photographs.

Verdun Living in Its Cellars.

A British 60-Pounder at the Moment of Discharge.

Capture of a German Hydroplane at Sea.

A Wrecked Zeppelin Seen From an Aeroplane.

The Summer Resort Section Is the Most Complete of the Kind Published.

R. Dirks, the Originator of the Katzenjammer Kids, Draws "Hans and Fritz" Every Week in the Comic Section.

YOU'LL WANT
Next Sunday's World

Order It From Your Newsdealer To-day.

Gimbel Brothers BARGAIN SUBWAY

33d St. and Broadway

Two Floors Downstairs

Store Hours, 8.30 to 6 P. M., Including Saturday

For Saturday—
Men's Suits, \$9.50



Best values ever seen in New York at this surprisingly low price.

These Men's Suits are made up to the Gimbel standard in three models, such as conservative three-button full lapel, plain flap pockets.

The soft roll lapel two-button effect or the much wanted pinch-back, patch-pocket style, neat mixtures of tan and gray homespun, blue flannel, blue serge, or dark Oxford gray with single or double stripes; sizes 33 to 42.

Boys' Wash Suits, 85c

In the very newest of models in neat color combination of chambray, Gaiety, madras and linen; sizes 2½ to 9 years.

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Cottage Furnishings

\$2.95 Muslin Bed Sets, colored borders or plain with braided design, slightly soiled, used as same—\$1.95

Striped Washable Couch Covers 85c

Curtain Strips, fancy woven or hemstitched borders, white, ivory or Arabian colors, 10c

Cretone in beautiful chintz designs and colors, 15c, 25c, 35c, 45c, 55c, 65c, 75c, 85c, 95c, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 1.60, 1.70, 1.80, 1.90, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 2.60, 2.70, 2.80, 2.90, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 3.60, 3.70, 3.80, 3.90, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 4.60, 4.70, 4.80, 4.90, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 5.60, 5.70, 5.80, 5.90, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 6.60, 6.70, 6.80, 6.90, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 7.60, 7.70, 7.80, 7.90, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 8.60, 8.70, 8.80, 8.90, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 9.60, 9.70, 9.80, 9.90, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 10.60, 10.70, 10.80, 10.90, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 11.60, 11.70, 11.80, 11.90, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 12.60, 12.70, 12.80, 12.90, 13.00, 13.10, 13.20, 13.30, 13.40, 13.50, 13.60, 13.70, 13.80, 13.90, 14.00, 14.10, 14.20, 14.30, 14.40, 14.50, 14.60, 14.70, 14.80, 14.90, 15.00, 15.10, 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